

Appl. No. 10/779,980
Amdt. Dated March 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated December 27, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A bone compression system for placing in communication with at least one bone having at least one bone radius of curvature, the bone compression system comprising:

a plate having a first end, a second end, capable of a pre-formed shape, a deformed shape, and at least one elastic shape between the pre-formed shape and the deformed shape, the pre-formed shape having at least one pre-formed radius of curvature wherein at least one of the at least one pre-formed radii of curvature is less than at least one of the at least one bone radii of curvature, the deformed shape having a deformed radius of curvature greater than at least one of the at least one bone radii of curvature, and at least one of the at least one elastic shapes having an elastic radius of curvature that substantially corresponds to at least one of the at least one bone radii of curvature; and

a tensioner for facilitating the movement of the plate from the pre-formed shape to the at least one elastic shape that substantially corresponds to at least one of the at least one bone radii of curvature, the tensioner including a shaft, a base, and at least two arms adapted to be releasably secured to the plate, the shaft having a shaft first end, a shaft second end, a shaft longitudinal axis, and at least one screw groove disposed along the shaft longitudinal axis to facilitate the movement of the at least two arms along the longitudinal axis of the shaft, the shaft second end being connected to the base, the base adapted to releasably engage the plate between the at least two arms so that engagement of said plate by said arms and said base enables the tensioner to alter the curvature of the plate.

29. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 28, wherein the first and second attachment members of the plate are slots, the first slot being disposed at the first end of the plate

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and the second slot being disposed at the second end of the plate.

30. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 29, wherein at least two of the at least two arms of the tensioner include an arm end, the arm end having a shape that permits insertion of the arm ends into the first and second slots.

31. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 28, wherein the first and second attachment members of the plate are loops, the first loop being disposed at the first end of the plate and the second loop being disposed at the second end of the plate.

32. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 31, wherein at least two of the at least two arms of the tensioner include an arm end, the arm end having a hook that permits insertion of the arm end into the first and second loops.

33. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 28, wherein at least two of the at least two arms of the tensioner include an arm end, the arm end having a spatula member.

34. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 28, wherein at least two of the at least two arms of the tensioner are operatively associated with an arm connector by a hinge member.

35. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 28, wherein the shaft second end is rotatably connected to the base such that the shaft is permitted to rotate and the base is permitted to remain stationary.

36. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 35, wherein the shaft of the tensioner is rotatably connected to the base by a ball joint.

37. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 35, wherein the shaft of the tensioner is rotatably connected to the base by a base shaft disposed within a cavity of the shaft.

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38. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 28, wherein the plate includes a length having a longitudinal axis and a width having a lateral axis, the pre-formed radius of curvature and the at least one elastic radius of curvature being disposed along the length.

39. (Original) The bone compression system of claim 28, wherein the plate includes a length having a longitudinal axis and a width having a lateral axis, the pre-formed radius of curvature and the at least one elastic radius of curvature being disposed along the width.